

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /090 W
-----081739Z 096138 /42

R 081426Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7213
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0184

E.DO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. UN SEC GEN DR. KURT WALDHEIM STOPPED FOR ONE DAY IN RIYADH FEBRUARY 6-7 DURING HIS CURRENT SWING THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING SAUDI PRESS, DURING HIS STAY HE SHARED IDEAS ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH KING KHALID, CROWN PRINCE FAHD, AND FONMIN SAUD BIN FAISAL. AT THE END OF HIS VISIT, WALDHEIM HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE POSITIVE EFFORTS MADE BY THE KINGDOM IN BOTH MIDDLE EAST MATTERS AND WORLD ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. FONMIN SAUD BIN FAISAL CAPPED THE NEWS CONFERENCE BY STATING THAT HE SENSED THE SEC GEN'S KEENESS TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA.

2. COMMENT: SAG RESPONSE TO THE WALDHEIM VISIT SEEMED A BIT PERFUNCTORY. WALDHEIM MET AT SAME TIME WITH BOTH KING KHALID AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD. FOR IN DEPTH DISCUSSIONS,
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CROWN PRINCE FAHD, THE MOVER AND SHAKER OF SAG MIDDLE EAST POLICY, WOULD NORMALLY HAVE MET WITH THE DISTINGUISHED VISITOR WITH ONLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN ATTENDANCE. PERHAPS THE ONLY REVELATION FROM WALDHEIM'S VISIT IS THAT THE KINGDOM IS NOW A MANDATORY STOP ON ALL PEACE-MAKING SWINGS THROUGH THE AREA, AND WALDHEIM'S ONLY ACCOMPLISHMENT HERE APPEARS TO BE THE BESTOWAL OF THE GOLDEN ORDER OF PEACE

UPON KING KHALID.
PORTER

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